

Nineteen civic, religious and fraternal organizations, both Negro and white, have endorsed the program on foot in Newark to have Negro physicians admitted to the staff of City Hospital.

Meanwhile Negro patients are segregated at City Hospital. This is a story in itself.

A letter from a member of the Medical Board to the Interracial Council of Newark states that the members of the Medical Board have the right "to dictate" with whom they shall be professionally associated.

City Hospital is a tax supported institution, nominally under the control of the Director of Public Works, one of the five City Commissioners, governing Newark.

On March 2, 1941, Pearce R. Franklin, then the Director of Public Works, said at a meeting: "The doctors on the Board as a matter of course have their sons or relatives succeed them. If a doctor dies, automatically his son or some other relative succeeds him to the Board." He admitted that very little democracy was practiced at City Hospital by the Board and staff.

When a call is made by telephone to City Hospital for an ambulance, the question is asked: "Is the patient white or colored?"

The above is but a brief summary of the matter of discrimination against Negro professionals at City Hospital in Newark.

In my opinion and according to surveys I have seen, the picture in Newark and in the whole State of New Jersey is far more dismal than in other cities and states above Washington, D. C.

The opinion of Harold Lett, Urban League Secretary here, is that New Jersey is the worse Jim Crow state north of Washington.

Housing all over the state is bad. (This is confidential and off the record: I, myself, cannot find a decent house in which to live in Newark. Through a friend, however, I maintain a legal residence there.)

Marshall Morell, a member of the office staff at Bordentown Institute and Manual Training School for Negroes at Bordentown, N. J., was unable and is still unable to find a cottage or an apartment for himself and family when the house he rented there was sold. Nor could he find a decent place in the nearby city of Trenton where housing is apparently worse than in Newark. Mr. Morell's wife and baby have come to East Orange where they share an apartment with a young married couple. Husband and father is able to see them only on week-ends.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
NEGRO PHYSICIANS AT NEWARK CITY HOSPITAL

By

Hughes Allison

No Negro physician has ever been appointed to the staff at Newark City Hospital although the authorities there have stated in a letter, a copy of which I have in my possession: "The Medical Board and the members of the staff of Newark City Hospital realize that as Negro physicians are licensed to the practice of medicine in this state, there should be facilities for their scientific progress!"

This letter was sent to the Interracial Council of Newark, N.J., in reply to a petition by the organization to admit Negro professionals to the hospital staff. The letter further states that the only way for Negro physicians and nurses to obtain hospital facilities in Newark is to have a segregated institution set up by the city--which, according to legal opinion, is a violation of the laws of New Jersey.

Mrs. R. T. Milburn, president of the Interracial Council of Newark says: "In their failure to appoint Negro physicians to the staff at City Hospital, the Medical Board, which calls itself a 'Closed Corporation', has run contrary to the Civil Rights Laws of New Jersey, Chapter 247, Laws of 1935!"

Mr. Harold Lett, Executive Secretary of the New Jersey Urban League, says: "The authorities of Newark City Hospital have deliberately and intentionally kept Negro physicians and nurses from being integrated into the staff at Newark City Hospital because of race prejudice. If they continue this practice the hospital authorities will defeat the aims of the National Defense Health Program so far as Newark is concerned!"

In the strict sense of residence, there are twenty-five Negro doctors in Newark. But many more Negro physicians who do not live in Newark have their offices in Newark.

When this writer and the Reverend L. B. Ellerson interviewed the Medical Director of Newark City Hospital, Dr. Earl H. Snavely, the Director was questioned about the competency of Negro doctors. Dr. Snavely replied: "The Negro physician in Newark is just as competent as the white physician in Newark." This interview occurred on March 19, 1941 in the Director's office at City Hospital.

A survey conducted by the Interracial Council of Newark discloses that: "while Negroes constitute only 10% of the population of Newark they (Negroes) constitute approximately 25% of the patients in the City Hospital!"